



The Association of Community Theatre – Central Ontario (ACT-CO) is a not-for-profit organization serving the community of central Ontario. The Mandate of ACT-CO is to bring member groups together and support them in their pursuit of continuous learning, education, and improvement of the knowledge and skills necessary to run a community theatre company and bring live theatre to the stage.

Any group who meets the membership criteria on the following page can apply to become an organizational member of ACT-CO. Once approved, the group pays an annual ACT-CO membership fee.

### **Membership Benefits**

Groups who hold membership in ACT-CO (and their members in good standing) have access to:

- Reduced group insurance rates through the ACT-CO insurer;
- Periodic peer-to-peer discussion groups on community theatre, NPO, and charity topics;
- Periodic guest speaker discussion groups on exciting community theatre, NPO, and charity topics;
- Periodic webinar discussion groups on exciting community theatre, NPO, and charity topics;
- Periodic in person community theatre skills workshops;
- Two annual theatre scholarships (one technical and one performance) available to students who are:
  - Individuals who are members in good standing of an ACT-CO member company; or
  - Children of individuals who are members in good standing of an ACT-CO member company;
- Ability to shape and contribute to ACT-CO's future by participating on select off-Board committees;
- Ability for unlimited members to attend any ACT-CO General Meeting (annual or otherwise);
- Ability for up to five (5) members to vote at any ACT-CO General Meeting (annual or otherwise);
- Ability to be elected to and serve on the ACT-CO Board of Directors;
- Ability to share theatre materials, best practices, and skills with other ACT-CO member groups;
- Participate in the annual ACT-CO Festival (*additional fees apply*);
- Attend the annual ACT-CO Gala/Celebration (*ticket fees apply*);

**ACT-CO is always looking to enhance Member Benefits. If you have suggestions, please send an email to [president@actco.ca](mailto:president@actco.ca).**

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## Membership Criteria

Theatre groups can apply for membership in ACT-CO if they meet the following criteria:

| <b>ACT-CO Membership</b> |   |  |   |
|--------------------------|---|--|---|
| <b>#</b>                 | <b>Criteria</b>                                     | <b>What works</b>  | <b>What doesn't work</b>  |
| 1.                       | <b>What is the group's purpose?</b>                 | Mandate includes to mount live plays (comedies, dramas), musicals or pantomimes. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can be book or original musicals, plays, or pantomimes</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Groups that <b>ONLY</b> offer youth programs</li> <li>• Groups that <b>ONLY</b> offer dance programs</li> <li>• Groups that <b>ONLY</b> offer puppet programs</li> </ul> |
| 2.                       | <b>What is the group's organizational structure</b> | The organization should be one of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Registered charity</li> <li>• Registered not-for-profit organization</li> </ul>  | Organization should not be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sole proprietorship</li> <li>• Limited partnership</li> </ul>  |
| 3.                       | <b>Membership</b>                                   | Anyone is allowed to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Join the general membership and participate in the group in any role for which they are qualified</li> </ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Any membership that is unreasonably restrictive</li> </ul>   |
| 4.                       | <b>Paying people</b>                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Production staff can be paid via honorarium</li> <li>• Select administrative roles could be PTE or FTE or paid via an informal honorarium</li> <li>• Production staff or actors could be paid via an Equity contract</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Board members (of charities) cannot be paid for any reason</li> <li>• Actors cannot be paid unless it is via an equity contract</li> </ul>                               |

ACT-CO welcomes your questions and comments regarding the above. Please send any questions to the **ACT-CO Membership Director** at [membership@actco.ca](mailto:membership@actco.ca) or to [info@actco.ca](mailto:info@actco.ca)

Groups are encouraged to:

- Renew their ACT-CO membership; and
- Encourage group members to serve on either:
  - The ACT-CO Board of Directors; or
  - An ACT-CO off-Board committee